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## Secretary of State Blunt on libraries

**M**att Blunt, Missouri's new Secretary of State, discussed Missouri libraries and a variety of library issues during a recent interview with *newsline*.

*What would you like for librarians around the state to know about your past experiences, current thoughts, and future visions associated with libraries?*

My parents instilled in me at an early age a love and appreciation of learning. I have always enjoyed spending time in libraries and taking advantage of the wide range of services they provide. Today libraries connect us to one another and to the world. I want to see a continued emphasis on the use of technology in libraries as a means of strengthening the bonds between the citizens of Missouri as well as broadening our horizons so that we have a global vision.

*Since a literate, well-informed electorate is essential for democracies to perform as they should, would you comment on how your role as the chief elections officer in the state might merge well with promoting libraries in Missouri?*

One of my top priorities in office will be implementing the "Responsible Citizens' Initiative." This program, aimed at young Missourians, will focus on teaching our young people about our history and about their future responsibilities as citizens. This is an interactive project, and we plan to seek the assistance of every library in the state to help us reach young people throughout Missouri. Thomas Jefferson reminded us that an informed electorate was the best guardian of our liberties, and I con-

stantly remind myself of that as we allocate the resources for the Secretary of State's Office.

*How do you believe your background in the Missouri General Assembly will help you as you work to support the divisions of the Secretary of State's Office, such as the State Library?*

My service in the Missouri General Assembly has provided me with an insight into how the legislative branch of our government functions, and I hope my experience there will help me be an effective advocate for libraries in the corridors of the capitol.

*What is your position on filtering Internet terminals in public and school libraries?*

I support local control of schools and public libraries. I believe that the local libraries across Missouri are the most capable of determining what—if any—type of filtering device should be used in their libraries and setting policy guidelines regarding Internet use on publicly owned machines.

*How do you think the State Library can help local libraries deal with the many expectations placed on them today?*

It is appropriate for the State Library to assist local libraries with both traditional and emerging services. Libraries should be able to ask the State Library any questions about various areas of library service. We have many libraries doing exciting and creative things. The State Library should help others know of the best projects and practices that are being utilized in libraries throughout Missouri.

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The Missouri State Library is a division of the Secretary of State's Office.

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Check out **newsline online** (ISSN 1088-7237) at <http://www.sos.mo.gov/library/newsline/newsline.asp>

## Secretary Blunt interview

(continued from page 1)

*Do you support an increase in state aid to public libraries, and if so, why?*

Education is a foundation of our democratic system. Missouri's public libraries provide numerous educational opportunities, and funding should always be made available—without burdensome red tape. I supported increasing state aid for our libraries as a state representative and will continue to do so as Secretary of State.

*Librarians must balance programs, staff, and budgets to meet public demand for both traditional and electronic services. What are your thoughts about this dilemma?*

This is a very delicate balance, and they are decisions that must ultimately be made by the local libraries. I do not believe that the state or federal government should dictate what programs and services local public libraries offer. New technology is broadening the scope of what libraries can do, but it should not do so at the expense of traditional services. I would also add that I believe new technologies can improve our ability to provide traditional services. I am confident that Missouri's librarians can determine the needs of their patrons and adjust their services appropriately.

*How do you see libraries contributing to the economic development of their local communities as well as to the entire state?*

Libraries contribute to the economic development of state and local communities primarily by providing educational opportunities and information. Workforce development and the availability of continuing education opportunities are important parts of a business's decision to move to or remain in our state.

## Grants for rural public libraries

The Libri Foundation is accepting applications for its summer 2001 Books for Children grants. The foundation is a nationwide, nonprofit organization which donates new, hardcover children's books to small, rural public libraries throughout the U.S. Since October 1990, the foundation has donated over \$1,200,000 worth of new children's books to more than 1,200 libraries in 46 states, including Missouri. Five Missouri libraries received grants in the most recent round of awards.

In order to encourage and reward local support of libraries, The Libri Foundation will match any amount of money raised by a library's local sponsor from \$50 to \$350 on a 2 to 1 ratio. Thus, a library can receive up to \$1,050 worth of new children's books. After a library receives a grant, local sponsors (such as formal or informal Friends groups, civic or social organizations, local businesses, etc.) have four months, or longer if necessary, to raise their

matching funds.

The librarian of each participating library selects the books her library will receive from a booklist provided by The Libri Foundation. The 600-plus fiction and non-fiction titles on the list reflect high-quality children's literature published in the last three years. These titles, which are for children ages 12 and under, are award-winners or have received starred reviews in library, literary, and education journals.

Libraries are qualified on an individual basis. In general, libraries should serve a population under 10,000 (usually under 5,000), be in a rural area, have a limited operating budget, and an active children's department. "Rural" is usually considered to be at least 30 miles from a city with a population of 40,000 or over; town libraries with operating budgets over \$90,000 and county libraries with operating budgets over \$190,000 are rarely given grants.

Applications are accepted from independent libraries as well as libraries which are part of a county, regional, or cooperative library system. A library system may also ap-

ply if all the libraries in the system meet the above requirements. A school library may apply only if it also serves as the public library, i.e., it is open to the general public and during the summer.

To request an application packet, contact Barbara J. McKillip, President, The Libri Foundation, PO Box 10246, Eugene, OR 97440; phone: 541-747-9655; fax: 541-747-4348; e-mail: [librifdn@teleport.com](mailto:librifdn@teleport.com).

The deadline for summer applications is August 1, 2001.

## Missouri public libraries offer new business resources

The Secretary of State's Office and the State Library have announced the availability of the Gale "Business and Company Resource Center" for use by all libraries that are part of the REAL Project. The resource can be accessed directly at: <http://galenet.galegroup.com/servlet/BCRC?q=morenet>.

Business and Company Resource Center offers content ranging from business periodical, consumer, marketing data, corporate histories and chronologies, and investment reports to press releases, stock quotes, company listings, product and brand information, suit and claim information, industry rankings and financial ratios, all organized in tabular navigation and all cross referenced.

## Gates Library Program comes to Missouri

*Over 300 libraries eligible to participate*

Get wired up! The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation has announced that Missouri is eligible to receive a \$6.2 million grant for public access computers. This grant will make it easier for many Missourians to get connected to information at their library. In conjunction with Missouri's Secretary of State and the State Library, the Gates Library Program will be providing computer hardware, software, training, and technical

support to eligible libraries throughout the state.

The Gates Library Program is dedicated to partnering with public libraries to provide public access computing, the Internet, and digital information to people in low-income communities and those caught in the "Digital Divide." The four goals of the program are:

- to close the "Digital Divide" in all 50 states,
- to provide public access computing in more than 9,500 libraries by 2003,
- to provide intensive training and technical assistance, and
- to provide a basis for long-term sustainability at the state and local level.

Eligible libraries are those serving an area with a minimum of 10 percent of the population living in poverty; partially eligible libraries serve areas with less than 10 percent of the population living in poverty. Individual applications will be sent to these libraries in mid-June.

While the poverty level determines eligibility, the service population will determine the number of computers each library will receive. The Gates Foundation will contact libraries regarding their grant awards, and computers will be delivered to libraries from January through July 2002.

Eligible library applications, while requesting some technical information, will focus on the partnerships libraries are developing to ensure the sustainability of technology into the future. The application will ask libraries to provide specific examples of how they are partnering with community businesses and organizations to fund equipment or to collaborate on projects.

One unique aspect of the Gates Library Program is individualized training and technical support for library staff. Prior to computers arriving in Missouri, members of the Gates Foundation team will conduct regional training workshops. In addition, Gates staff members will conduct on-site visits to libraries to assist with the set-up of the Gates computers. Libraries also will receive

*(continued on page 4)*



## Web Watch

### Heritage Preservation

<http://www.heritagepreservation.org>

Organization works with libraries, archives, museums and other groups to inform the public of the need to preserve our collective heritage. Links to Save Our Sculpture!, publications, and other heritage programs and projects.

### iEmily.com

<http://www.iemily.com>

Comprehensive health and wellness site for adolescent girls; provides in-depth information on a variety of topics related to girls' physical, emotional, intellectual, and social health.

### National Security Archive

<http://www.gwu.edu/~nsarchiv/index.html>

Declassified U.S. government documents available from George Washington University. Some of these primary sources include "The Real Thirteen Days" (Cuban missile crisis) and the U.S. and Chinese nuclear programs (1960-64). Many documents have blacked-out areas that contain information that still might threaten national security.

## Laura Bush promotes reading

First Lady Laura Bush has issued "A Guide for Parents: How Do I Know a Good Early Reading Program When I See One?" and "Ready to Read, Ready to Learn." She also has announced her plans to focus America's attention on recruiting the best and brightest to the teaching profession and ensuring that all young children are ready to read and learn when they enter the classroom.

The full text of the guide for parents, along with the five-page "Ready to Read, Ready to Learn" can be found at <http://www.ed.gov/inits/rrrl/guide.html>.

## Facts about America's libraries

Americans spend seven times as much money on home video games (\$7 billion) as they do on school library materials for their children (\$1 billion).

School library media centers spend an average of \$7 per child for books—less than half the average cost of one hardcover school library book.

Students visit school library media centers almost 1.5 billion times during the school year—about one-and-a-half times the number of visits to state and national parks.

Research shows the highest achieving students attend schools with good library media centers.

Source: American Library Association

technical assistance from a toll-free helpdesk for two years after the arrival of their computer(s).

For more information on the Gates Library Program in Missouri, contact Heather Peugh, statewide and community partnerships consultant, at 800-325-0131, ext. 16.

## New books focus on Missouri heritage

Five new books provide readers, researchers, and libraries with authoritative information about Missouri's diverse history and culture.



Lorin Cuoco and William Gass founded the International Writers Center at Washington University in 1990 and began to gather material for a literary guide to St. Louis. Cuoco is a former arts reporter, and Gass is an internationally acclaimed novelist and essayist and professor emeritus in the humanities at Washington University. The product of their research, *Literary St. Louis: A Guide*, features 50 essays on authors who lived and worked in St. Louis. From T.S. Eliot and Fannie Hurst to Kate Chopin and Howard Nemerov, the book is filled with photographs, maps, illustrations, and colorful anecdotes.

Published by the Missouri Historical Society Press, the guide is available for \$19.95 and distributed through the University of Missouri Press. Order from the MU Press at 573-882-0180.



*Missouri Government and Constitution: A Concise Survey and Study* by Dr. Richard Dohm offers a modern, comprehensive text to fully explain the workings of government at the state level. The book presents an overview of Missouri government, including a chapter on the development of the state; an introduction to governance systems; chapters on the executive, legislative, and judicial branches; a special chapter on juvenile justice, a pictorial walking tour of Missouri's capitol grounds; and overviews of the federal government, local government, and the Constitution. It also presents a quick reference guide to online resources.

Each chapter includes biographies of famous politicians, numerous photographs and flowcharts, and important terms and concepts.

The author is professor emeritus of political science at the University of Missouri-Columbia.

To order the 256-page book, send \$24.95 plus \$3.20 s/h to Pebble Publishing, Inc., PO Box 2, Rocheport, MO 65279. Pebble's website (<http://www.pebblepublishing.com>) also features more than 500 Missouri-related books available through Missouri Gold booksellers, a division of Pebble Publishing.



*The 1999 Statistical Abstract for Missouri* contains economic and demographic summary statistics on Missouri and related data on the United States. This convenient reference book includes data on school enrollment, energy consumption, liquid assets, farm prices, births, deaths, marriages, divorces, and more.

Missouri's *Stat Abstract* is available for \$30.00 from the Economic & Policy Analysis Research Center, University of Missouri-Columbia, 10 Professional Bldg., Columbia, 65211; 573-882-4805. Missouri orders should add 6.975% tax. A one-year subscription to Missouri Economic Indicators is available free upon request with each order.



*Lift Every Voice and Sing; St. Louis African Americans in the Twentieth Century* tells the stories of 100 prominent residents, who recall the challenges faced by blacks throughout a tumultuous century in urban Missouri. Along with the stories are photographs of each individual profiled.

The book opens with an overview of St. Louis in the 20th century, providing a historical context for the profiles. A segregated city up through the 1950s, St. Louis became a birthplace of civil rights. A number of organizations in the city fought for equality, including an early chapter of the Congress for Racial Equality, which sponsored pickets, boycotts, and sit-ins. The community's African American lawyers sent several important civil rights cases to the U.S. Supreme Court. Citizens also worked to-

gether to create an effective political machine that garnered work for blacks despite the segregated job market.

The interviews were conducted by Doris A. Wesley, reference specialist at the Western Historical Manuscript Collection at the University of Missouri-St. Louis. Also contributing to the book were Wiley Price, a prize-winning photojournalist for the *St. Louis American*, and Ann Morris, associate director at UMSL's Western Historical Manuscript Collection.

The book may be ordered for \$29.95 from the University of Missouri Press at 573-882-0180.



*After the Fall* documents the tragedy of Srebrenica and its effects on the lives of one extended family in St. Louis. The town of Srebrenica occupies a special place in the chronicle of destruction and loss in the recent war in Bosnia-Herzegovina. Srebrenica—site of the worst mas-

sacres in Europe since the end of World War II—has become synonymous with the reappearance of genocide at the end of the 20th century.

Written by Patrick McCarthy, a librarian at St. Louis University and founder of the St. Louis Bosnian Student Project, with photographs by Tom Maday, *After the Fall* presents the sequence of events that led to the siege of Srebrenica, the genocide that followed, the refugees' journey to St. Louis, and the ongoing efforts of thousands of survivors to build new lives while awaiting word of loved ones still reported as "missing." As many as 20,000 Bosnian refugees—approximately 500 of them survivors of Srebrenica—have come to settle in St. Louis.

To order the book, priced at \$24.95, contact the University of Missouri Press at 573-882-0180.

## NISO standards available on the Web

The National Information Standards Organization (NISO) is a leader in shaping international standards. NISO develops and promotes technical standards used in a wide variety of information services. It is a non-profit association accredited as a standards developer by the American National Standards Institute, the national clearinghouse for voluntary standards development in the U.S. NISO's voting members and other supporters include a broad base of information producers and users including libraries (Z39.50), publishers, government agencies, and information-based businesses.

For the first time, NISO is making its standards and technical reports available on the Web as .pdf files for downloading at no charge. From the NISO homepage (<http://www.niso.org>), click on the NISO Press icon, and then click on Standards, Books and Software. You can search for the title you want or review a list of all the approved and NISO publications.

NISO is continuing its print publication program and will continue to sell the hard copy standards.

### Nominees for 2001

## Missouri Building Block Picture Book Award

Appelt, Kathi. *Oh My Baby, Little One*  
Bynum, Janie. *Otis*  
Hort, Lenny. *Seals on the Bus*  
Lewin, Betsy. *Click, Clack, Moo: Cows That Type*  
London, Jonathan. *What Do You Love?*  
Lund, Julian. *Two Cool Coyotes*  
Spinelli, Eileen. *Night Shift Daddy*  
Wood, Douglas. *What Dads Can't Do*  
Yolen, Jane. *How Do Dinosaurs Say Goodnight?*

Zimmerman, Andrea. *My Dog Toby*



*The Building Block Award highlights books for children 0 to Kindergarten. It is sponsored by the Children's Services Round Table of the Missouri Library Association.*

## Book sales in 2000

Consumer spending on books reached \$12.6 billion in 2000, almost one percent more than in 1999, according to a new Ipsos-NPD study on book trends. Buyers purchased about 1.6 billion books, about the same number of units as in 1999. Other stats:

■ Adult trade books made up more than two-thirds of all books purchased in 2000.

■ Mass-market paperbacks were the most popular adult trade titles—four of every 10 books sold.

■ Popular fiction represented more than half of adult trade titles purchased in 2000.

■ Internet book buying constitutes six percent of all books purchased by U.S. households.

## Missourians on the Net

The U.S. Department of Commerce ranks Missouri as the sixth-fastest state in connecting to the Internet.

While the number of Missouri households owning a personal computer grew by almost 11 percent between 1998 and 2000, the number of households connected to the Internet nearly doubled, jumping more than 19 percent in the two-year period from 23 percent to over 42 percent.

Among surrounding states, Missouri ranks third for households owning a personal computer and second for households with Internet access.

## Personal Notes

### Literacy funding receives \$90 million increase

In its FY2001 funding bill for education, Congress approved an increase for adult education of more than \$90 million over FY2000 funding levels. Funding for the English Literacy and Civics Education state grants was increased from \$25.5 million for FY2000 to \$70 million for FY2001.

This increase ensures that all states will receive a minimum of \$60,000 to expand and enhance English literacy and civics education programs. States with very high overall and recent immigration will receive more than the minimum amount.

In addition to this increase for English literacy services, the Adult Education State Grants will increase by \$20 million in FY2001. This increase will allow states to build upon current priorities or to provide across-the-board increases for their programs.

The State Library has announced the appointment of three new staff members in its Library Development Division: **Carolyn Amos** as technology and automation projects consultant, **Ashley Moore** as statistical research analyst, and **Heather Peugh** as statewide and community partnerships consultant.

Amos was most recently a reference librarian at the Callaway County Public Library in Fulton, and before that worked as an archivist at Lincoln University. She also has been an elementary school librarian in Kansas City and a library director at Denmark Technical College (SC). She received a B.S. in library science from South Carolina State University and an M.L.S. from Atlanta University.

Moore holds an M.P.A. and an M.S.W. from West Virginia University; she also holds a graduate certificate in women's studies from that institution. Her undergraduate degree in social work is from George Mason University (VA). She has done community research in a variety of settings and has more than 10 years of experience in providing direct social services in homeless shelters, Head Start, nursing homes, day care, transitional housing, and children's empowerment groups.

Peugh has worked in public relations and public affairs capacities for Southwest Missouri State University, Master Marketing Group, The Hawthorn Group, and U.S. Congressman Roy Blunt. She has helped to coordinate both community and political events such as National "Make a Difference Day," a series of national town hall meetings, and fundraisers. She earned a B.A. in speech communication from the University of Missouri-Columbia and will complete an M.A. in communication and mass media in May 2001 from Southwest Missouri State University.

**Linda Clary** is the new director of the Dade County Library, headquartered in Greenfield. She replaces **Edie Boucher**,

who was employed at the library for 12 years and served as library director since 1997.

**Karen Hayden** has been appointed director of Little Dixie Regional Libraries, Moberly. A library employee since 1977, Hayden worked in the library's reference and adult services departments until becoming interim director in late 2000. She holds a B.A. in sociology from the University of Minnesota at Duluth and is working on an M.L.S. at the University of Missouri-Columbia.

New staff at the University of Missouri-Kansas City Libraries include **Michelle Beattie** as clinical medical librarian and **Gloria L. Tibbs** as information commons specialist.

Beattie has worked at the Johnson County (KS) Library and in the libraries of Truman Medical Center East in Kansas City, Central Texas College, Casey Memorial Library (TX), and the University of Kansas. She received a B.A. in political science and history from the University of Kansas and an M.L.S. from the University of Texas at Austin.

Tibbs was formerly the cybrarian project coordinator for the Kansas City Metropolitan Library and Information Network. She has professional experience at the Columbia Metropolitan Library System (OH), Ohio State University at Lima, Lima Technical College (OH), Memphis and Shelby County Public Library (TN), Boston Public Library, and El Paso Public Library.

Tibbs holds an M.L.S. and a B.A. in English from Emporia State University (KS).

Kansas City Public Library has announced the appointment of **Mary Beveridge** as manager of the special collections department and **Diana Silvers** as director of marketing and development.

Beveridge spent 12 years at Drake University's Cowles Library where she served most recently as coordinator of marketing and customer service. She earned a B.A. in history from the College of Wooster, an

M.S. in library science from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and an M.A. in history from Drake University. She will be working with her staff to compile and maintain local history and other special collections within the library as well as on-line for library patrons.

Silvers was a public relations manager for Sprint and previously worked as communications coordinator for Missouri Western State College. She has a B.A. in English from Missouri Western and an M.P.A. from the University of Missouri-Kansas City. She will be heavily involved in the library's upcoming capital campaign.

**June DeWeese** has been invited by American Library Association president Nancy Kranich to serve on a special task force that will "articulate those issues facing the profession that may be characterized as issues of status" (e.g., comparable worth, public recognition of librarians) and recommend strategies for addressing and adopting those issues. DeWeese has long been active in ALA and is the association's councilor for Missouri. The task force's recommendations will be presented to the ALA Council at the 2002 midwinter meeting.

**Allison Eckhardt** is the new outreach services manager for the Springfield-Greene County Library. She has 17 years of experience with the Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service, where she developed and presented educational programming in family and consumer sciences to a variety of audiences. She earned a B.S. in vocational home economics from North Dakota State University.

## Deaths

**Esther Gilman**, the first director of Trails Regional Library in Warrensburg, died December 24, 2000, in Warrensburg. She served as the library's director for almost 25 years.

The regional library was created in 1957 after a State Library demonstration project in Johnson and Lafayette counties. Voters authorized the establishment of library dis-

tricts in both counties in 1957, and the two districts then formed a regional library. Gilman became director in 1957 when the collection numbered about 2,500 volumes. Under her administration, the library expanded services throughout the two counties with seven branches and a bookmobile, increased staff and the collection, opened additional branches, and enjoyed strong community support with voters approving higher tax levies for library service. Upon her retirement in 1982, an editorial in the *Warrensburg Star-Journal* referred to her professional expertise and stated that she "made a mark that will be indelible on the library's history."

Gilman was a past president of the Public Library Association and was active in the Missouri Library Association.

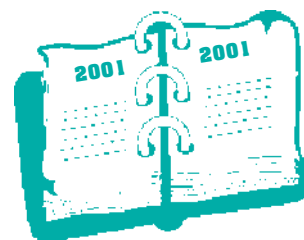
**Albert Prince (A.P.) Marshall**, former director of the Lincoln University library, died March 9, 2001.

Marshall's distinguished career in librarianship began at Lincoln University, where he served as assistant librarian from 1939 to 1941. He later worked as a librarian at the State Teachers College in Winston-Salem, NC (1941-50) and as university librarian at Lincoln University (1950-69). In 1969, he became director of libraries at Eastern Michigan University (1969-72), then dean of academic services (1972-78), and professor (1978-80).

Marshall served on the American Library Association's council from 1963 to 1976, on numerous ALA committees, and was elected and served in 1971-1972 as second vice-president (an office since eliminated). For the Missouri Library Association, Marshall served as editor of the *Missouri Library Quarterly* (1952-54), secretary (1954-56), and president (1961-62).

He was the author of *Soldiers' Dream: A Pictorial History of Lincoln University* (1966) and contributed to many books and journals. Among his awards were the Missouri Library Association Citation of Merit (1969) and the Lincoln University Alumni Achievement Award (1965).

## Upcoming Events



**April is National Poetry Month**

**April 1-7**  
National Library Week

**April 2**  
International Children's Book Day

**April 12**  
Secretary's Council on Library Development Meeting  
Jefferson City

**April 16-22**  
Young People's Poetry Week

**April 22-24**  
Missouri Association of School Librarians Spring Conference  
Osage Beach

**April 23-29**  
National TV Turnoff Week

### 60 million domain names by 2002

Currently, there are some 30.2 million registered uniform resource locators (URLs) in the world, a figure that will rise to 60 million by 2002, according to NetBenefit's NetNames. The most popular top-level domain (TLD) is .com, with more than 18 million domains. Three million domain names end with .net, and two million with .org. The top country code TLD is .uk, which ends 2.2 million domain names. Germany's .de is second with two million, and the Netherlands, Argentina, and Italy are also top country codes.

## Missourians to attend National Library Legislative Day

Each year, hundreds of librarians, friends, and library supporters from across the country gather in Washington, DC for National Library Legislative Day. Attendees meet with senators and representatives and gather support for key library issues.

Once a small gathering attended by a handful of concerned librarians, National Library Legislative Day has become one of the essential yearly events of the library community: In 2000, more than 500 library supporters attended from 49 states.

State Librarian Sara Parker will represent Missouri at Legislative Day events on May 1. Also attending from Missouri will be Margaret Conroy, president of the Missouri Library Association; Annie Busch, director of Springfield-Greene County Library; Teresa Bledsoe and Bill Mauck, trustees for Springfield-Greene County Library; Judy Daniels, Drexel R-4 School; Gerald Brooks, public relations director for St. Louis Public Library; Doug Brockhouse, trustee for Kirkwood Public Library; Victor Gragg, representing Mid-Continent Public Library;

Helen Spalding, associate director of libraries, University of Missouri-Kansas City.

## New national reading theme

"Telling America's Stories" is the new national reading promotion theme for the years 2001 to 2003. Sponsored jointly by the Library of Congress's Center for the Book and American Folklife Center, the theme takes advantage of the Library of Congress website, existing Center for the book projects such as Favorite Poem and Literary Heritage USA, and the congressionally sponsored Local Legacies project that documented the nation's cultural traditions.

"Stories connect people to the world of books and reading," said Center for the Book director John Y. Cole. "We invite schools, libraries, museums, historical societies, families, and individuals to join us. We also enlist our affiliated centers in 41 states and the District of Columbia."

Previous Center for the book reading promotion themes have included "The Year of the Young Reader" (1989), "Books Change Lives (1993-1994), and "Building a Nation of Readers" (1997-2000).

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